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REMARKS

I. Status Summary

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 14 have been amended. Claims 3-5, 12, 13, and 15-19 have been canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1, 2, 6-11, and 14 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application as amended and based on the arguments set forth hereinbelow is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,834,178 to Pink (hereinafter, "Pink"). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pink. Claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pink in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,715,699 to Coates et al. (hereinafter, "Coates"). Claims 10 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pink in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,547 to Oh (hereinafter, "Oh"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding Claim 1, the Examiner stated that Claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Official Action, page 3.) Claim 5 depends from Claim 4, which depends from Claim 3. Claim 3 depends from Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claims 3-5. Applicants believe that the neither of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the features of amended Claim

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1. For these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 should be allowable and request that the claim now be formally allowed.

Claims 2 and 6-10 depend from Claim 1. For the above reasons, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2 and 6-10 should now be formally allowed.

Regarding Claim 11, the Examiner stated that Claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Official Action, page 3.) Claim 13 depends from Claim 12, which depends from Claim 11. Claim 11 has been amended to include the features of Claims 12 and 13. Applicants believe that the neither of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the features of amended Claim 11. For these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 11 should be allowable and request that the claim now be formally allowed.

Claim 14 depends from Claim 11. For the above reasons, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 14 should now be formally allowed.

Claims 3-5, 12, 13, and 15-19 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejections of Claims 3-5, 12, 13, and 15-19 are moot and should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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